

From: Mike (038) Barb Stineman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 6:40pm

Renata Hesse

January 28, 2002

Trial Attorney

Antitrust Division

Department of Justice

601 D Street NW, Suite 1200

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

One thing that sets America apart from almost every other country is our free market system. Recently, however, this system has been in jeopardy. What I have witnessed over past few years between Microsoft and the United States government is infuriating. You would think that the federal government would have learned from the IBM case -- that the high-tech industry moves at a pace far greater than that of the federal government bureaucracy.

This case has become a political football and as a result the Nasdaq has plummeted, America's international technology leadership has been compromised, and taxpayers' time and money has been wasted.

The fact is, no consumer harm by Microsoft was proven in this case - which was the basis for the suit in the beginning. Therefore, Microsoft has been persecuted for making a better product and using aggressive marketing to promote it better than its competitors.

The settlement that is before Judge Kollar Kotelly would do what should have been done long ago: end the federal case against Microsoft. The settlement, in my mind, is more than fair to the government - keeping Microsoft under review for a period of time and making it tougher for them to compete. I support the proposal for the simple reason that it will bring closure to the case.

I hope that you will keep my comments in mind as you review your position on the settlement to the Microsoft case.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Stineman, President

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